(d) and (e). The Government have taken various steps from time to time to increase the availability of cloth in the country such as liberalisation of licensing provision, fiscal restructuring, special attention to the production of handloom cloth, permitting import of textile machinery under OGL and reduction of customs duty on such imports, research and development, etc. It is estimated that during 1996-97 the production of cloth in the country would be around 29,500 million sq. mtrs as per the Working Group Report on the Textile Industry for the 8th Five Year plan period (1992-97).

Jute Mills

2707. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Jute mills and Textile mills in West Bengal as on March 31, 1996; and

(b) the total number of cases pending before BIFR both from Textiles and jute units of West Bengal as on March 31, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) As on 31.3.96, total number of jute mills in West Bengal was 59. Besides, 42 Cotton/Man made fibre textile mills in the State were registered with the Office of Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

(b) As reported by the BIFR, from West Bengal 11 cases in jute sector and 2 cases in textile sector were pending with BIFR as on 31.3.96

Seizure of Water Turtles

2708. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs officials at Malda in West Bengal seized some 1,500 fresh-water turtles allegedly being smuggled to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the "invisible hands" behind the turtles smuggling have been identified; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them as also to enquire their end use?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. customs authorities at Mohedipur Land Customs Station in the State of West Bengal seized 1500 fresh water turtles while attempted to be smuggled from India to Bangladesh.

(c) and (d). Two persons found involved have been arrested and prosecution against them has been launched. Further investigations in the matter are in progress. Investigations conducted so far have not revealed involvement of any person other than the two arrested persons. It is learnt that these turtles are used for display in domestic aquariums.

[Translation]

Industrial Growth

2709. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed the target of achieving 7-8 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Production and 12 per cent in Industrial growth;

(b) if so, the measures taken to expand and strengthen the basic infrastructure required for the same;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The common minimum programme envisages GDP growth of 7% per year. Industrial Growth is also proposed to be maintained at 12% per year.

(b) to (d). Development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and communication is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The Government is already considering extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through deregulation of production and distribution. Foreign investment in these sectors in also being encouraged to supplement domestic resources. Union Budget 1996-97 has proposed establishment of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised share capital of Rs.5000 crores to act as a direct lender, as a refinancing institution and as a provider of financial guarantees. To step up investment in infrastructure, a levy of 2% as special custom duty on all imports except those that carry a nil rate of duty or are imported at nil rate of custom duty for export production has also been proposed. Tax concessions have also been extended to infrastructure sector.

Textile Mills in M.P.

2710. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number o textiles mills in Madhya Pradesh and the number of mills closed down out of them;

(b) the total number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of these mills;

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take to solve unemployment problem, caused by the closure of these textile mills;

(d) whether the Government propose to sell some of the lands belonging to the closed textile mills to help in re-open the mills; and

(e) if so, the textile mills which have been allowed to sell their lands?